THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) For upgradation of promising institutions of IITs, a Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. S.K. Joshi was constituted. The Committee identified the following seven institutions for upgradation:

(i) Institute of Technology, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi;

(ii) University College of Engineering combined with the University College of Technology, both belonging to Osmania University, Hyderabad;

(iii) Bengal Engineering College, Howrah;

(iv) Jadavpur University's Engineering & Technology Departments;

(v) Zakir Hussain College of Engineering, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh;

(vi) Andhra University College of Engineering, Vishakhapatnam; and

(vii) Cochin University of Science and Technology, Cochin.

The Expert Committee observed that the above institutes have the best potential among the engineering and technology colleges in the country for upgradation to the level of IITs. However, in the light of substantial gap between the selected colleges and IITs, it would not be correct to position them straightaway alongside the IITs. The identified Institutes were asked to submit their Vision Documents and another Expert Committee consisting of Prof. M. Anandakrishnan as Convenor had been set up to examine these Vision Documents and suggest a Plan of Action for upgrading the identified institutions. The Anandakrishnan Committee has recently submitted its Report.

(e) To start with the upgradation programme, funds have been allotted to the Institutes during 2006-07.

UGC academic calendars

3066. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the UGC is mooting to bring out a uniform academic calendar:

(c) if so, the responses received so far; and

(d) the idea behind such a move?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The University Grants Commission has received responses from eighteen universities so far out of which 16 universities are in favour of establishing the uniform academic calendar at the National Level.

(d) The idea behind the move is to enable the free movement of students from one State to another.

Technical education institutes in Uttaranchal

3067. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of technical educational institutes functioning in Uttaranchal at present and since when;

(b) whether any grant has been received by the Universities and Colleges in Uttaranchal from the University Grants Commission during the year 2002 till date; and

(c) the details of the criteria for receiving and utilization of such grants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) According to AICTE, the details of the technical educational institutes functioning in Uttaranchal State for the year 2006-07 are as follows:-

Sl. No.	Discipline	No. of Institutes
1.	Hotel Management & Catering Technology	5
2.	MBA	16
3.	Engineering & Technology	13
4.	Pharmacy	7
5.	MCA	12